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Security Council

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Letter dated 12 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of April 2018 during the presidency of the Republic of Peru (see annex).

The assessment was prepared by the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations, in accordance with paragraph 136 of the note by the President of the Security Council of 30 August 2017 (S/2017/507), following consultations with other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations

18-19253 (E) 201118

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Annex to the letter dated 12 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Peru (April 2018)

Introduction

In April 2018, under the presidency of Peru, the Security Council held 27 public meetings, 10 consultations of the whole and one private meeting. During the consultations of the whole, three additional topics were discussed under the item "Other matters". The Council adopted five resolutions and agreed on two presidential statements and 10 statements to the press.

Among the public meetings were a high-level briefing and three open debates. On 25 April, the Council held a high-level briefing on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, Néstor Popolizio Bardales. On 16 April, the Council held an open debate on preventing sexual violence in conflict through empowerment, gender equality and access to justice. On 23 April, the Council held an open debate on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: youth, peace and security". On 26 April, the Council held its quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

On 21 and 22 April, members of the Security Council travelled to Backakra, Sweden, to the private estate of the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, where they held their nineteenth annual retreat with the Secretary-General.

From 28 April to 2 May, a Council mission jointly led by the Kuwait, Peru and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, visited Bangladesh and Myanmar. On April 27, as they travelled, members of the Council met in Kuwait City with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah.

In accordance with the Council practice, Peru began its presidency with the presentation of the provisional programme of work of the Council for the month, which was adopted on 2 April at the Council's consultations of the whole.

Also on 2 April, Peru convened informal meetings with the wider United Nations membership and the United Nations Correspondents Association to present the adopted programme of work, as it did on 5 April with the World Federation of United Nations Associations. Finally, on 26 April, Peru, jointly with Ethiopia and Sweden, convened a wrap-up informal meeting with the wider United Nations membership.

On 19 April, members of the Council observed a minute of silence and rendered homage to their friend and colleague, the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué, who passed away on 18 April 2018. On the same day, the Council issued a statement was to the press (SC/13309) expressing mourning for the loss and the condolences of the members of the Council.

Africa

Burundi

On 5 April, the Council agreed on a presidential statement expressing, inter alia, deep concern over the political situation in Burundi, the slow progress of the

inter-Burundian dialogue and the lack of engagement by the Government in that process (S/PRST/2018/7). The Council also welcomed and supported the renewed commitment by the African Union and the East African Community to the peaceful resolution of the political situation in Burundi through an inclusive dialogue based on the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi.

Central African Republic

On 3 and 11 April, the Council issued statements to the press condemning attacks against the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in Tagbara by suspected anti-Balaka elements, killing 1 Mauritanian peacekeeper and injuring 11 others, and in Bangui by elements of armed groups, killing 1 Rwandan peacekeeper and injuring 8 others (SC/13275 and SC/13291, respectively).

On 12 April, the Council held consultations of the whole on the security situation in the Central African Republic, at which members were briefed by Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga.

Great Lakes region

On April 10, the Council held a briefing on the situation on the Great Lakes region. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2018/209). He urged the Council to remain united in its support for the implementation of the 31 December 2016 political agreement among Congolese political leaders, under which elections would be held on 23 December 2018. He also encouraged the Council to keep urging the parties concerned to work towards the common goal of peace, stability and sustainable development for the region and its populations.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo, Raymond Serge Balé, as Chair of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, highlighted the fact that the task at hand was to help the Democratic Republic of the Congo regain stability so that it could become a catalyst for lasting peace in the wider region, and called upon the international community to mobilize around regional efforts with strengthened coordination and cooperation.

The Council issued a statement to the press (SC/13287) in which it, inter alia, reaffirmed its support for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and for the Special Envoy, while calling for further engagement and regional coordination to address the remaining challenges.

Guinea-Bissau

On 19 April, the Council held consultations of the whole on the situation in Guinea-Bissau under the item "Other matters". The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of Mission for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), Modibo Touré.

Liberia

On 19 April, the Council held a briefing on the situation in Liberia. The briefers were the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Alexander Zouev, who introduced the final progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) (S/2018/344); the Deputy

Permanent Representative of Sweden, Irina Schoulgin Nyoni, on behalf of the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission; and the chief executive officer of the non-governmental organization Liberty & Justice, Chid Liberty.

The Council agreed on a presidential statement commending the achievements and progress made by the people and Government of Liberia since the deployment of UNMIL in 2003 (S/PRST/2018/8). With the completion of the UNMIL mandate more than 14 years later, on 30 March 2018, it was stressed that the United Nations would remain an important partner for the country as it continued to consolidate peace and stability in the future.

Mali

On 5, 6 and 15 April, the Council issued statements to the press condemning attacks against the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), in Aguelhok, in which 2 Chadian peacekeepers were killed and 10 others were injured; in Gao, in which 1 Nigerien peacekeeper was killed; and in Timbuktu, in which 1 Burkinabe peacekeeper was killed and others, including Malian civilians, MINUSMA personnel and members of the French forces, were injured (SC/13281, SC/13283 and SC/13298, respectively).

On 11 April, the Council held a briefing on the situation in Mali. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of MINUSMA, Annadif Mahamat Saleh, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2018/273), and by the Permanent Representative of Sweden, Olof Skoog, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali. The Special Representative highlighted that, despite deterioration in the security situation that had claimed the lives of civilians and United Nations peacekeepers, the peace process in Mali was making headway along a timetable leading to elections later in 2018, in accordance with the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali, Tiéman Hubert Coulibaly, highlighted the new momentum in the peace process and reiterated the commitment of his Government to see it through as well as its determination to hold transparent, inclusive and credible elections.

On 18 April, the Council held consultations of the whole on the security situation on Mali and was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

Somalia

On 4 April, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/13277) condemning the terrorist attack perpetrated on 1 April by Al-Shabaab in Shabelle Hoose, Somalia, against the Ugandan contingent of the African Union Mission in Somalia, in which a number of soldiers were killed and injured. On 19 April, members of the Council held their monthly luncheon with the Secretary-General, which was devoted to informally discussing the situation in Somalia.

Sudan/South Sudan

On 12 April, the Council held consultations of the whole, under the item "Other matters", on the renewal of the mandate for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The Council was briefed by the Assistant-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita. On 13 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2411 (2018), by which it extended for a 10-day period a set of modifications to the mandate of UNISFA, which enabled the Mission to support

government efforts to normalize relations in the contested border region. On 24 April, after being briefed in consultations of the whole by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, the Council unanimously adopted its resolution 2412 (2018), by which it extended until 15 October 2018 the modification to the mandate of the Mission and decided that it would be the final such extension unless the parties took several measurable steps related to the contested border area.

Western Sahara

On 5 April, the Council held a private meeting with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), at which Council members were briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita. Following an exchange of views, the Council issued an official communiqué (see S/PV.8222).

On 17 April, the Council held consultations of the whole on the mandate renewal for MINURSO. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Head of MINURSO, Colin Stewart, and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun. On 27 April, the Council adopted resolution 2414 (2018) by a recorded vote of 12 to none, with 3 abstentions (China, Ethiopia and the Russian Federation), by which it extended the mandate of MINURSO until 31 October 2018. All 15 members of the Council made statements after the vote.

Americas

Colombia

On 19 April, the Council held a briefing followed by consultations of the whole on the theme "Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/53)". In the open chamber, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, Jean Arnault, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2018/279). He highlighted that, on 11 March, millions of Colombians had turned out to vote in elections that were a clear step forward in the country's transition from conflict to peace.

The members of the Council expressed their support for the peace process and the Mission, referring to ongoing efforts and remaining challenges in the light of the new political scenario. The Vice-President of Colombia, Oscar Naranjo, reiterated on behalf of his Government that the challenges reported by the Secretary-General were being addressed as a matter of priority, including the need to safeguard the lives, integrity and freedom of community leaders and human rights defenders throughout the territory.

At consultations of the whole, the Council members continued their consideration of the latest developments and of the new political situation, issuing a statement to the press (SC/13310) in which they reiterated their full and unanimous support for the peace process in Colombia and shared the assessment of the Secretary-General set out in his report on the work of the Mission.

Haiti

On 3 April, the Council held a briefing on the question concerning Haiti. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) (S/2018/241), noting that he had visited Haiti on 14 and 15 March. He reported that the Mission was fully operational and actively implementing its mandate and that it had started to prepare for a transition to a non-peacekeeping presence, on the basis of lessons learned in Haiti and in other contexts.

On 10 April, the Council adopted its resolution 2410 (2018) by a recorded vote of 13 to none, with 2 abstentions (China and the Russian Federation), by which it extended the mandate of MINUJUSTH until 15 April 2019. Statements after the vote were made by the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, France, the United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, the Netherlands, Poland and Peru.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 23 April, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/13314) condemning the terrorist attack that took place at a voter registration centre in Kabul on 22 April, in which at least 50 people were killed and 100 were injured, for which Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant claimed responsibility.

Mission to Bangladesh and Myanmar

From 28 April to 2 May, members of the Council visited Bangladesh and Myanmar as part of efforts to address the crisis under way since 25 August 2017. The composition of the mission and its terms of reference were communicated to the Secretary-General on 26 April in a letter from the President of the Council (S/2018/391). The mission was jointly led by the Permanent Representatives of Kuwait, Peru and the United Kingdom.

That was the first visit by Council members to Bangladesh and Myanmar. The members were struck by the scale of the humanitarian crisis. In Bangladesh, they visited refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, where they met with Rohingya refugees. The members also met with the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, the Minister of State, Mohammed Shahriar Alam, the Acting Foreign Secretary, M. Khurshed Alam, and the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, Mohammed Abul Kalam, along with other senior government officials and representatives of the United Nations country team in Bangladesh.

In Myanmar, members of the Council met with the State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Union Minister for the State Counsellor's Office, U Kyaw Tint Swe, the Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government and National Security Adviser, U Thaung Tun, and the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Win Myat Aye, in addition to other senior government officials, representatives of the United Nations country team in Myanmar and members of civil society. They also visited northern Rakhine State to observe the situation there.

On 9 May, the Council issued a statement to the press (SC/13331) on the visit to Bangladesh and Myanmar. On 14 May, the Council held a meeting on the theme

"Briefing by the Security Council mission to Bangladesh and Myanmar (28 April to 2 May 2018)".

Middle East

Syrian Arab Republic

On 4 April, the Council held a briefing on the theme "The situation in the Middle East: letter dated 28 March 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/283)". The Council was briefed by the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Thomas Markram, on the implementation of its resolution 2118 (2013) on the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. Council members reiterated their condemnations of the use of chemical weapons and their divergent views on how to ensure accountability.

On 9 April, the Council held a briefing on the theme "Threats to international peace and security: the situation in the Middle East". The briefing was convened as an emergency meeting after reports of an alleged chemical weapons attack in Duma, Syrian Arab Republic, on 7 April. The Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, and the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Thomas Markram. Briefers and members of the Council reiterated their condemnations of the use of chemical weapons and raised concerns regarding the rapid escalation of international tensions.

On 10 April, Council members voted on three draft resolutions on the situation in the Middle East. The first draft resolution (S/2018/321) was submitted by Canada, France, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. France, the United States and the Russian Federation made statements before the vote. The draft received 12 votes in favour (Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States), 2 against (Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and the Russian Federation) and 1 abstention (China). It was not adopted, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council. Statements after the vote were made by the United Kingdom, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Poland, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and the Netherlands.

The second draft resolution (S/2018/175) was submitted by the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation made a statement before the vote. The draft received 6 votes in favour (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation), 7 votes against (France, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States) and 2 abstentions (Côte d'Ivoire and Kuwait). It was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes. The United Kingdom, the United States, China, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Sweden, Kazakhstan and Bolivia (Plurinational State of) made statements after the vote.

The third draft resolution (S/2018/322) was also submitted by the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation and Sweden made statements before the vote, after which the meeting was suspended for the Council to hold consultations of the whole. After the consultations, the draft resolution obtained 5 votes in favour (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation), 4 against (France, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States) and 6 abstentions (Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru and Sweden). It was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes. Statements after the vote were made by the United Kingdom, China, Sweden, Equatorial Guinea, Poland, the United States, Ethiopia, the Russian Federation, Kuwait, Kazakhstan,

France, the Netherlands, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Peru. The Syrian Arab Republic also made a statement.

On 12 April, the Council held consultations of the whole on the maintenance of international peace and security. The meeting was convened after the escalation of rhetoric on possible unilateral actions in the Syrian Arab Republic in response to the latest allegations of chemical attacks in Duma. The Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Taye-Brook Zerihoun.

On 13 April, the Council held a briefing on the theme "Threats to international peace and security: the situation in the Middle East". In his briefing, the Secretary-General considered that the situation in the Middle East had become a threat to international peace and security and that the Syrian conflict represented the most serious threat to the international peace and security of the day. He expressed outrage at reports of the continued use of chemical weapons; called for a thorough investigation, using impartial, independent and professional expertise; supported the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and its fact-finding mission; stressed the need for accountability; reiterated his deep concerns about the risks of the Council's impasse; and stressed the need to prevent the situation from spiralling out of control. The Syrian Arab Republic also made a statement.

On 14 April, the Council held a briefing on the theme "Threats to international peace and security: the situation in the Middle East". In his briefing, the Secretary-General referred to reports of air strikes conducted the night before by France, the United Kingdom and the United States against three military locations in the Syrian Arab Republic. He called upon all States Members of the United Nations, and the members of the Council in particular, to act in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including the norms against chemical weapons. He also stated that there could be no military solution to the crisis and that he had asked his Special Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, to hold consultations to accelerate the political process in the Syrian Arab Republic.

After a discussion in which members of the Council presented divergent views on the latest events, the Council voted on a draft resolution (S/2018/355) submitted by the Russian Federation. The draft resolution received 3 votes in favour (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China and the Russian Federation), 8 against (Côte d'Ivoire, France, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States) and 4 abstentions (Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Peru). The draft resolution was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes. Statements after the vote were made by Sweden, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Equatorial Guinea, France, the Netherlands, Kuwait, China, the Russian Federation, Peru and the United Kingdom. The Syrian Arab Republic also made a statement.

On 17 April, the Council held a briefing on the situation in the Middle East that was devoted to the consideration of the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular in Raqqah and Rukban, as well as in Afrin, Ghutah and Idlib. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock. He stressed that the humanitarian response should be urgently augmented.

On 25 April, the Council held a briefing on the situation in the Middle East that was devoted to the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/369), and stressed the need to turn pledges of aid into progress on the ground.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 25 April, the Council held its quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Council members were briefed by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, Nickolay Mladenov. He warned Council members about escalating tensions, outside interference and growing risks of potentially explosive miscalculations, from Gaza to the Syrian Arab Republic to Yemen, and the implications of such for the rest of the world. He also stated that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remained a permanent source of oxygen for militants and radicals across the Middle East. During the debate, speakers expressed concerns about deadly incidents at the Gaza-Israel border and urged both parties to stop violence and resume peace talks. Forty-four speakers made statements.

Yemen

On 17 April, the Council held a briefing on the situation in the Middle East that was devoted to Yemen. The Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock. They stressed that the parties to the conflict must return to negotiations or risk escalating the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Members of the Council raised concerns regarding the continued violations of international law and international humanitarian law.

Thematic and other issues

Incident in Salisbury, United Kingdom

On 18 April, the Council held a briefing on the theme "Letter dated 13 March 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/218)". Participants addressed the incident that occurred in Salisbury, United Kingdom, on 4 March 2018, which involved the use of a toxic chemical — allegedly a nerve agent — and the poisoning and hospitalization of three individuals as a result. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, briefed the Council, conveying information provided by OPCW, which had prepared the report given to the United Kingdom on 12 April, identifying the use of toxic agents consistent with those signalled in the initial investigation conducted by the United Kingdom.

Nineteenth Security Council retreat of the Secretary-General

On 21 and 22 April, the annual retreat of the Secretary-General with members of the Council was held in Backakra, Sweden, at the private estate of the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. It was hosted by the Permanent Representatives of Peru and Sweden. Following on the revised draft programme transmitted by the Secretary-General in his letter dated 19 April (circulated by the President of the Council on the same day), the first session of the retreat, held on 21 April, was devoted to conflict prevention and peace operations, and the second session, held on 22 April, was devoted to the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretary-General transmitted a related report with a letter dated 4 May (circulated by the President of the Council on 7 May).

At the conclusion of the retreat, Council members agreed to issue statements to the press on the Syrian Arab Republic, reaffirming the legitimacy and credibility of the political process led by the United Nations, reiterating their commitment to establishing an independent and impartial attribution mechanism on the use of chemical weapons, and welcoming the Secretary-General's commitment to engaging with the Council on those matters.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

On 12 April, the Council held a briefing on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Members were briefed by the Permanent Representative of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). Members of the Council voiced grave concern over the increasing number of allegations of chemical weapons attacks in recent months.

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

On 25 April, the Council held a high-level briefing on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, Néstor Popolizio Bardales. The meeting was held in parallel with the high-level event convened on 24 and 25 April by the President of the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016). The Council was briefed by the Secretary-General, by the State Secretary for Regional Affairs and Multilateral Global Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Dan Neculăescu, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Smail Chergui. Other high-level participants were the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margot Wallström, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, Marcel Amon-Tanoh. The meeting was informed by the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (S/2018/43) and the letter dated 9 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/325).

On 26 April, the Council unanimously adopted its resolution 2413 (2018), which was substantively identical to General Assembly resolution 72/276, adopted by Assembly on the same day, on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Women, peace and security

On 16 April, the Council held an open debate on the theme "Women and peace and security: preventing sexual violence in conflict through empowerment, gender equality and access to justice". The Council was briefed by the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohamed, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, and senior researcher at Kaladan Press, Razia Sultana. The debate was informed by the report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2018/250) and the letter dated 2 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/311). Sixty-three speakers made statements at the debate.

Youth, peace and security

On 23 April, the Council held an open debate on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: youth, peace and security". The Council was briefed by the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake; the lead author of a progress study on youth, peace and security, Graeme Simpson; a member

of the Advisory Council of the World Young Women Christian Association, Sophia Pierre-Antoine; and the Executive Director of Organisation URU, Kessy Ekomo-Soignet. The meeting was informed by the identical letters dated 2 March 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/86), and the letter dated 6 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/324). Sixty-six speakers made statements at the debate.

In the light of the open debate, the Council unanimously adopted its resolution 2419 (2018) on 6 June 2018.